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GERMANS CONTINUE TO DRIVE FORWARD IN SAAR OPERATIONS

Wiltden Bridgehead Near Forbach; 3rd Courland Battle on East Front Stalemated

Domei

BERLIN, January 2.—The areas south and southwest of Bastogne still remained the focal points of the fighting in the west over the New Year with the German troops engaged in bitter but fluctuating battles against increased pressure by tank columns of the American 3rd Army which again failed to break through the southern flank of the German penetration wedge.

During the past 24 hours, the Americans with strong tank units continued their struggle to break the steel German ring south of Bastogne, but the Germans intercepted and checked all thrusts to the north and northeast after a hard and fluctuating fight, while to the east of the town, several enemy dents were ironed out in counterattacks.

Latest reports said that attacks and counterattacks with alternating success are still in progress and increasing in intensity. Yesterday, the Americans lost another 48 tanks and the German High Command announced that American tank losses in the battle between the Meuse and Moselle have now reached the 1,000 mark since December 16 when the German offensive was begun.

American counterthrusts were less intense at Rochefort and on the northern flank between the valleys of Ourthe and Ambleve and netted little gains. Though the Americans have concentrated a remarkable amount of forces in the small area, they have not succeeded in squeezing the German corridor or isolating the forward German groups.

It is not yet known for sure whether General Eisenhower has given up his original idea of bringing about the collapse of the German wedge by double-sided pressure against the base of the penetration and cutting off the German assault armies from their rear communications by a double breakthrough from the north and south, but for the past several days strong American thrusts have been brought to bear on the base of the German wedge. With tanks and increased material, the Americans are incessantly attacking the German troops in the Rochefort region, without much success.

Meanwhile, the surprise German year-end attack in the region south of the Saar is being continued. Following up the first blow on the weakened American front, the Germans liberated several more important positions on both sides of Bitsch and widened the German bridgehead northwest of Forbach. Pushing relentlessly behind the retreating Americans, the German attackers have already captured several key positions south of the Maginot Line.

Also southwest of Saarbrucken, the situation is marked by increased German activity.

Americans Yield Ground

Domei

LISBON, January 2.—Field Marshal von Rundstedt's troops pierced the American 7th army's positions around Bitsch in northeastern France according to an anti-Axis news report released today. The report, with a 36-hour time lag, said the Germans threw in five attacks against General Patch's lines and forced the Americans to yield ground around the wooded region of Bannstein, five miles southeast of Bitsch. The German attacks, it added, were at points along a 50-mile front east and west of Bitsch.

Other frontline reports said that the Germans were still throwing most of their strength into the Belgian bulge and bracing a hard defensive line around St. Hubert-Wiltz and persisting in counter-attacks around Bastogne. It said that the Germans launched a number of counterblows Sunday around the perimeter of their Belgian bulge one of which captured Moircy, 11 miles west of Bastogne.

Courland Battle Ends

Domei

BERLIN, January 2.—The third big battle for Courland has ended in an absolute stalemate at the beginning of the new year and the stubborn German defenders have taken such a big toll of the attackers it is assumed the Soviet armies in this sector do not have enough strength to command another major operation for some time.

The last thrusts of the Soviet forces against the eastern bend of the German front collapsed in terrific German defense fire and some minor dents of the last days of fighting were ironed out in German counterthrusts. Fighting activity in this sector is now only limited to shock-troops sorties.

The battle for Budapest, meanwhile, still raged with increased ferocity with strong Soviet attacks against the city from the east. German and Hungarian garrison troops defended themselves tenaciously and succeeded in beating back concentrated assaults while some dents were narrowed down by counterthrusts and sorties.

Fighting in the border area of Slovakia is presently of local nature only, but Soviet pressure north of Eipel is continuing strongly toward the north in the face of considerable resistance.

Only locally restricted fighting was reported from the rest of the Hungarian Front. Strong Soviet thrusts west of Felsoegalla were repelled while German alpine troops broke into Soviet lines at the source of the Sajo River.

Admiral Ramsay Killed In Airplane Accident; Headed Invasion Fleet

Domei

LISBON, January 2.—Admiral Bertram Ramsay, commander-in-chief of the anti-Axis invasion fleet, was killed in a plane crash over France today, it was announced by the anti-Axis quarter in the west, according to a Paris dispatch. A London report said that the 61-year old British Admiral was on his way to a conference in Belgium when the accident occurred. No further details were revealed. Admiral Ramsay was in command of the famous British retreat at Dunkirk in 1940 and in July of 1943 he participated as the commander of naval operations in Sicily. Recently he participated in the British landing on Walcheren Island in Holland.

Fuehrer's Headquarters

January 2

In the area southwest and south of Bastogne the violence of the battle increased. The attacking American 3rd Army suffered heavy casualties and losses without being able to achieve the hoped for breakthrough in the direction of Houffalize. The enemy again lost 48 tanks. The total figure of enemy tanks destroyed or seized in the battle between the Meuse and Moselle since December 16 has thus increased to more than 1,000.

On the Saar front and on the northern and northeastern border of Lorraine the wedge driven into the enemy's lines on New Year's night was deepened, our bridgehead northwest of Forbach was widened and the Bliss sector northeast of Saargemuend was crossed. In the area north of Forbach and in the lower Vosges the enemy was ejected from his positions in various front sectors. Our divisions conquered numerous localities south of the Maginot Line in counterthrusts.

Strong squadrons of German bombers and battleplanes as well as fighters in the morning of the New Year's day dealt a surprise blow to the enemy airfields in the Belgium-Dutch area. According to reports so far available at least 400 enemy aircraft were destroyed on the ground in this big attack while 100 were heavily damaged. Moreover, the airfields themselves and the installations there were heavily hit. In the course of these attacks fierce aerial combats developed in the course of which 79 enemy planes were shot down. Thus the enemy lost at least 579 aircraft in the west yesterday. The long-range fire on London, Liege, and Antwerp was continued.

In most front sectors in Central Italy the lull in the fighting continued. Fighting activity, yesterday flared up only in the Faenza area.

In the Hungarian battle zone our troops repulsed major Soviet attacks in the sector southwest of Felsoegalla. Besides, there were no major actions between the Drave and the Slovak border. The garrison of Budapest on the eastern and western fronts of the town repelled fierce Soviet attacks, supported by battleplanes, and eliminated some enemy penetrations in counterattacks. In the Slovak border districts north of the Eipel battles are going on with the Soviets pushing north. In a surprise thrust in the area of the Sajo springs Alpine troops took more than 350 prisoners and captured a large amount of arms. On the entire remaining sectors of the Eastern Front there was no major fighting.

German battleplanes by day and night attacked the enemy supply traffic in the Budapest area. In the month of December the Soviets lost 588 aircraft in actions by our fighters and Luftwaffe flak.

Anglo-American terror bombers on New Year's Day penetrated into western and northwestern Germany. Numerous explosive and incendiary bombs caused considerable damage to buildings, especially in the residental quarters of Kassel. The area west of the Rhine was exposed to intensified enemy atttacks by low-flying aircraft and fast bombers which dropped their bombs indiscriminately on small localities and which attacked the civilian population with their cannons. British nightraids were directed mainly against the Rhenish-Westphalian area. Our air defenses shot down 25 enemy aircraft over Reich territory yesterday almost all of them being four-engined bombers.

HISTORIC CHANGES LOOM FOR 1945, SAYS FUEHRER

Issues Order of Day to Armed Forces; Germans Can't Be Defeated, He Stresses

Domei

BERLIN, January 2.—Declaring that Germany's struggle for existence has passed its climax with the entry of the war into its sixth year—a year which will see historic changes, Fuehrer Adolf Hitler in his Order of the Day issued to the Reich Armed Forces today, again stressed that the German people cannot be defeated by force of arms nor by time.

The Fuehrer's Order of the Day follows:

"The world historic importance of this struggle is quite clear to the German people today. It is a ruthless struggle for life and death. The objective of the Jewish international world is the extermination of the German people. Today no one can doubt the intention of our enemies. Prime Minister Churchill declares that the whole of eastern Germany is to be ceded at least to Poland, which actually means the Soviet Union. This refers not only to East Prussia and Danzig but also to Pommerania and Silesia.

"Churchill expresses the hope that he would succeed to kill another 6,000,000 or more German women and children by his bombing war and General de Gaulle demands that western Germany should come under French sovereignty. This corresponds exactly with the Soviet declarations, which have the same objective as the plans of Henry Morgenthau, American Secretary of the Treasury.

"This struggle for our existence has lasted for more than five years. It will become harder still in the sixth year of the war but, nevertheless, it has passed the climax. Despite all setbacks the German people and army have successfully opposed the enemy. In the year which is now starting the enemy attack will be repelled also and will eventually be broken in counterattacks.

For Europe's Future

"In this gigantic struggle which is being fought not only for the future of Germany but for that of Europe we suffered setbacks. The reason for these is not to be found with the German people or army but with our European allies. Beginning with the breakdown of the Rumanian, Italian, and Hungarian front at the Don and their complete dissolution, from the sabotage by the Royal House in Italy up to the putsch against the Fascist Italy of the Duce, is one straight road of treachery. It found its continuation in the pitiful capitulation of the Finnish Government, in the breach of loyalty of the Rumanian King and his clique, in Bulgaria giving herself up, and in the shameful behavior of the former Hungarian Regent. Serious consequences resulted from all these events for the political and military conduct of the war.

"Although the 20th of July had a pressing military consequence and has helped to shake the belief in the power of resistance of the German people, it may be considered the turning point for Germany. The attempt to destroy the German social people's state by means of a plot in the interior at the time of its bitterest struggle has definitely failed. I can assure you that this has been the last attempt of this kind. The German people cannot be defeated by force of arms nor by time. A 9th of November, 1918 will never happen again.

"Since July 20 I have been preparing for the time when the German army can again change over from the defensive to the offensive. We fully realized that the European fortress in its former extent could not be defended by the German soldiers alone. We were forced therefore, as a result of the treachery of our allies, to withdraw whole fronts and to shorten others. No step backward however, has been made without offering utmost resistance. Our enemies must know that each kilometer toward Germany will mean increasing losses for them.

Cannot Be Defeated

"My German soldiers! A people, which has secured such victories, which has not been broken by setbacks, which is suffering so heroically and working so diligently as you do, cannot be defeated but will live. Wherever our enemies have occupied a country, order and peace cease and chaos makes its appearance. Democracy is unable to solve the smallest task even of this continent. The 'liberated' countries in Europe have been thrown into chaos and starvation and misery stalks in these countries. This densely populated continent can live only if its individual energies are made full use of. National Socialist Germany and Fascist Italy are the sole two countries in Europe that have honestly endeavored to solve this problem. The order, prevailing in Germany even under the heavy burdens of the sixth year of war, is furnishing proof that the solution of this problem has been found in Germany.

"The year 1945 will demand from us utmost courage and activity. It will also be the year of the historic changes. The soldiers of the allied European governments and peoples, marching with us, constitute the cells of reconstruction of a continent which is our home, in which our predecessors lived, in which they fought for thousands of years, and which they are defending until death today."

Navy Minister Yonai Greets New Year With Renewed Determination to Win War

Navy Minister, Admiral Mitsumasa Yonai, in addressing the Navy Ministry staff on January 2 stated that 1945 was the most crucial year in the history of the Japanese Empire but that all difficulties would be surmounted and victory achieved through the consolidation of the nation's total strength and the concentration of all intellectual and physical potentialities on the war effort.

The Navy Minister's New Year message follows:

"In greeting the 2,605th year of the Empire, I, together with you, offer my sincere prayers for the continued prosperity of the Imperial Family and for the ever ascending fortunes of the Empire.

"As you are all aware the war situation today is indeed grave. The fate of the Empire depends on whether the present crisis can be surmounted or not. In truth the present year may be said to be the most crucial one in the history of the Empire.

"We must forge ahead for the consolidation of the nation's total strength and for the concentration of all intellectual and physical potentialities to overcome all obstacles and to attain the final victory.

"The responsibility shouldered by the Navy is indeed great. At the start of the 2,605th year of the Empire, my determination, together with yours, to fight the war to ultimate victory and to overcome all obstacles is further solidified, and I firmly hope to place the mind of His Imperial Majesty at rest."

U.S., BRITAIN CRITICIZED FOR SACRIFICING POLAND

If Atlantic Charter Had Been Applied Poles Would Have Been Saved, Madrid Paper Says

Domei

LISBON, January 2.—Not only Great Britain but also the United States is guilty of the shameful crime committed against Poland, the Madrid paper Ya editorialized today in its comment on the establishment of the Provisional Government of Poland by the Lublin Committee.

The paper charged that if the United States had shared the British attitude and if the postulations of the Atlantic Charter had been applied, Poland possibly would not have been sacrificed.

London Poles Supported

Domei

STOCKHOLM, January 2.—First measures taken by the Lublin Polish Government was sharply criticized by the London Daily Herald today, and the paper especially deplored the step whereby Stanislav Mikolajczyk, former Polish Premier, was deprived of his citizenship.

The British Labor Party's official organ claimed that Mikolajczyk has more rights to speak in the name of Poland than the Lublin Committee and expressed regret over the reshuffle of the London Polish Government of several months ago.

Still supporting the London Polish Government, the paper claimed that the Government still has the support of the majority of the Poles and hoped that the new change within the Government would give the British Government a chance to take the matter up once more.

France Is Doubtful

Domei

LISBON, January 2.—The possibility of a revision of the French recognition of the Polish exile Government in London was hinted at by the paper Combat, an organ of the French resistance movement, in its comment on the recent establishment of the Provisional Polish Government in Lublin, according to a Paris dispatch.

While one might entertain certain doubts whether the Lublin Government was really representative of the will of the Polish people, the paper wrote, one may also hold some doubts about the Polish Government in London. The journal further said that the De Gaullist Government viewed the establishment of the Lublin Government as solely an internal affair of the Poles, but that it had sent observers to Lublin to report on the "political reality" in Poland and to what extent the Lublin Government actually represented the Polish people.

The paper claimed that reports sent by Captain Foucbet, the French representative in Lublin, would undoubtedly show whether the "French Government will abide by or modify its present policy of recognition of the Polish exile Government in London."

LAUREL SAYS P.I. IS SET TO REALIZE NEW ORDER

Filipinos Will Fight to the Last To Protect Their Freedom, He Asserts

Dr. Jose P. Laurel, President of the Republic of the Philippines, in his New Year radio message to the Japanese people on Wednesday evening, reiterated the Philippine people's unswerving determination to fight to the end in order to realize the New Order as envisaged in the Joint Declaration of the Greater East Asiatic Nations. He declared he was firmly convinced that Japan's ideals, which consist of moral regeneration, peace and common prosperity not only for Asia but also for all the peoples of the world, will never fail to materialize.

President Laurel's message, in gist, follows:

"In greeting the dawn of the fourth year of the War of Greater East Asia, it is my pleasure to extend my hearty greetings to the people of the Great Empire of Japan.

"The significance and effects of the legion of important events which have taken place since the outbreak of the war will long remain in history. It is without precedent in world history that so many significant events have successively transpired in such a short period.

"The year 1942 ushered in the bright rays of liberation for the 1,000,000,000 people of East Asia. We, the people of the Philippines, in recalling that year are overwhelmed with a sense of deep gratitude for the immense significance which that year held for our country. With the entry of the Japanese Armed Forces in Manila on January 2, 1942, the Philippines saw with their own eyes the end of 400 years of alien rule and the dawn of a new era. Since then, the mighty Japanese Forces have liberated the peoples of the Southern Regions one by one and set them anew along the course of justice.

"In the three years' since then, we have seen a remarkable strengthening of the determination of the nations of Greater East Asia to form a solid Co-Prosperity Region, to maintain and develop the manifold results achieved by the war and to carry on the struggle to the last in order to reserve for posterity the freedom thus won. The Philippines have striven hard during this period to realize the long-cherished dreams of freedom and independence, and the Empire of Japan has extended her most kindly assistance to expedite the materialization of these dreams.

"Today, the new Republic of the Philippines shares the one and the same resolve with the great Japanese people and all the friendly nations of Greater East Asia and is determined to protect and maintain the precious assets which were achieved by the liberation of the Filipinos. Our country aspires to contribute to the materialization of the glorious objective of the New Order as set forth in the Joint Declaration adopted at the historic Assembly of Greater East Asiatic Nations in 1943. This Declaration, which may rightly be described as the Magna Charta of Freedom, maintains the principles of moral justice, independence and friendly relations, enhancement of culture, economic prosperity and contribution to the advancement of the welfare of mankind, to which the people of the Philippines have pledged themselves.

"In greeting the New Year, we look forward to the New Order and have renewed our unswerving determination to fight to the end in order to realize it for the present and future ages. I pray that the Japanese people have renewed their strength, courage and resolution and wish to express my conviction that their ideals which consist of moral renaissance, peace and common prosperity will never fail to materialize."

THAI LEADER STRESSES JAPAN'S WAR RESOLVE

Aphaiwong Hails Brilliant Nippon Victories in New Year Message to Japanese

Khuang Aphaiwong, Prime Minister of Thailand, in a New Year's radio message to the people of Japan, on Wednesday night, declared that in greeting the New Year the thoughts of all the people of Japan must be inseparably bound with the war, and that for the attainment of the war objective it was incumbent on the people of Japan to expend their total and united efforts toward that end.

The Thai Prime Minister's message follows:

"People of Japan!

"It is a matter of great joy to me that I again have the opportunity today to extend hearty greetings of the season as Japan and Thailand welcome the New Year together.

"At New Years, it is the usual custom of the people of any nation to exchange cheerful words of greeting and for the festive spirit to fill each home as tables are loaded with good things to eat and the hours spent in merry conversation.

"In greeting the New Year this time, the thoughts of all the people of Japan must be inseparably bound with the war, and for the attainment of the war objective it is incumbent on the people of Japan to expend their total and united efforts toward that end.

"As I reflect on the brilliant Japanese victories since the outbreak of the War of Greater East Asia, I am firmly convinced that the people of Japan have more and more renewed and strengthened their unshakable faith in ultimate victory. Thailand, who has maintained close and friendly relations with the Japanese people for over several hundred years and has at present entered into an alliance with Japan, fully understands Japan's lofty ideals in waging this war for the sake of the freedom and prosperity of all the peoples of Greater East Asia. On the basis of our alliance agreement, we are cooperating with Japan to the utmost of our power.

"On this auspicious occasion, the people of Thailand offer their heartfelt congratulations to Japan on her brilliant victories. On behalf of the people of Thailand, I sincerely pray from the bottom of my heart for the victory of the Japanese Forces and for the ever greater prosperity of the Japanese Empire under Divine protection."

U.S. GETS BASE IN AZORES

Agreement with Portugal Reported Concluded Last November

Domei

MADRID, January 2.—It is reported that an agreement was drawn up between the United States and Portugal towards the latter part of November last year whereby the United States would be permitted to establish a military base in the Azores Islands. It has been a known fact that the United States had been looking covetously on the Azores Islands, belonging to Portugal, as a desirable site for construction of a military base, and had been bringing pressure to bear on the Portuguese Government in this connection.

The Pan-American Airways of the United States already possessed an airfield in Santa Maria Island, situated on the southernmost end of the Azores group. The air corps of the U.S. Navy is said to have taken the above airfield under government control and is now carrying on large-scale construction work.

BOLIVIAN CABINET FORMED

Domei

LISBON, January 2.—A grave crisis in the Bolivian Government was avoided last week when a new Government again headed by President General Gualberto Villaroel was formed, according to a Buenos Aires dispatch.

In the new reshuffle, Gustavo Chacon, former Economic Minister, was appointed Foreign Minister; Colonel Jose Pinto remained as Defense Minister; Major Edmundo Nogales, former Agriculture Minister, was made Interior Minister. Other appointments included Victor Paz, Finance; German Monroy, Labor; Jorge Zarco, Economics; Julio Zuazo, Agriculture; Major Antonio Ponce, Public Works; and Major Jorge Galero, Education.

His Majesty Conducts Rites of Genshisai At Imperial Palace

The ceremonies of Genshisai were solemnly held before the sanctuaries within the Imperial Palace on Wednesday morning with His Majesty the Emperor personally officiating. With Court ritualists in attendance, His Imperial Majesty, attired in ancient ceremonial robe, proceeded toward the sanctuaries and conducted elaborate rituals before the Souls of the Imperial Ancestors. After His Imperial Majesty had retired, Princes of the Blood and officials close to the Throne worshiped before the sanctuaries.

LUFTWAFFE STRIKES HARD IN NEW YEAR'S DAY RAIDS

Bags 427 Anglo-American Aircraft in Smash Against Belgian, Dutch Areas

Domei

BERLIN, January 2.—The German air arm struck out in considerable force on New Year's Day and knocked out altogether 127 Anglo-American planes, the majority of which were accounted for on the ground during air blows struck against enemy airports in the Belgian and Dutch area.

German bombers and battleplanes in considerable number winged their way over the front and apparently catching the enemy by surprise destroyed a total of 323 planes parked on the ground of several airports behind the front in Belgium and Holland. An additional 95 were seriously damaged.

The attack was carried out in several waves and returning crews verified that considerable damage was made on the airfield installations. Fuel dumps were blown up, motor-lorries destroyed and hangers were shot ablaze or smashed.

Another lump of 79 Anglo-American planes were accounted for also yesterday in air duels over the front, and another 25 planes almost exclusively four-engined bombers which raided northern nad northwestern Germany were shot down.

Germans Destroy 1,712 Planes

Domei

BERLIN, January 2.—Altogether 1,712 enemy planes were destroyed by the German Luftwaffe over both the Western and Eastern fronts during the month of December, military quarters revealed today.

The majority of the figure or 1,124 planes including 410 four-engined bombers were brought down over the Eastern Front and 588 were accounted for over the Eastern Front principally over the Hungarian battle area.

Keitel to Italian Front

Domei

LISBON, January 1.—Field Marshal Wilhelm Keitel, former Chief of the German High Command, is reported to have been appointed today Commander-in-Chief of the German Forces in the Italian Front, succeeding Field Marshal Albert Kesselring, according to a Paris dispatch.

Ankang Base Blasted

By a Member of the Military Press Corps

BASE ON CONTINENTAL FRONT, January 2.—A Japanese Bomber Unit, attacking Ankang airfield, Shensi Province, at midnight yesterday, caused explosions in four places and set two places on fire. Also another unit, again raiding Laohokow, set fire to a small-sized plane parked on the ground. All Japanese planes returned safely.

Ceylon War Chief Recalled

Domei

LISBON, January 1.—Vice-Admiral Geoffrey Layton, Supreme Commander of Ceylon, will shortly resign from his post, according to a Reuter report reaching here. Layton has been the Supreme Commander of Ceylon since the beginning of 1942, and in his broadcast today, he announced that his recall was expected and that he had learned last week that he would shortly leave for England.

U.S. to Draft More Men

Domei

LISBON, January 2.—A motion to draft 4,000,000 additional men for war work from the ranks of those men previously registered as unfit for military service will shortly be brought before Congress, it was announced today by James Byrnes, Chief of the U.S. Mobilization Office, according to a Washington dispatch, cutta dispatch.

AMERICAN AIRFIELD ON SAIPAN IS RAIDED BY NIPPON BOMBERS

2 Places Blasted in First Attack On Asito Base This Year, I.H.Q. Reveals

Japanese Air Forces attacked the enemy airfield on Saipan Island at dawn of January 2 when they blasted more than two places, the Imperial Headquarters announced in its communique issued at 3 p.m. on Wednesday.

The communique follows:

IMPERIAL HEADQUARTERS' COMMUNIQUE
3 p.m., January 3

"Our Air Forces at dawn of January 2 attacked the enemy's airfield on Saipan Island and blasted and set ablaze two places."

First Raid This Year

Units of the Imperial Japanese Air Forces launched their first raid this year on the Asito airfield on Saipan Island at about 3 a.m. on January 2. Roaring through the barrage of enemy A.A. gunfire and the beams of many searchlights our Wild Eagles blasted several places before returning to their base safely.

Enemy Transport Sunk

Domei

PHILIPPINE BASE, January 2.—Japanese Air Units attacking an enemy convoy off San Jose on Mindoro Island between midnight on January 1 and early yesterday morning, sank a medium transport, damaged two others and set ablaze a small transport.

Japanese Air Units on the night of January 1 also bombed and blasted the enemy's harbor facilities at Tacloban on Leyte Island.

Japanese Air Units at dawn on January 1 blasted enemy positions in the vicinity of Jalo on Leyte and also carried out bombing and strafing attacks against enemy transports plying throught the Mindoro Sea last night.

Yiojima Isle Attacked

Domei

CENTRAL PACIFIC BASE, January 3.—About 10 B-24's attacked Yiojima Island yesterday afternoon.

B-29'S RAID KANSAI AREAS

Drop Some Incendiaries But Damage Caused Is Slight

Several formations of B-29 bombers based on Saipan Island attacked Nagoya, Osaka, Kobe, and Hamamatsu on Wednesday afternoon. However, due to the vigorous Japanese counterattack, the raiders were forced to flee southward.

Some incendiaries were dropped on the Osaka district, but damage caused was slight. At Nagoya and the other areas, damage was minimized due to the speedy action of anti-Air Raid Corps.

FUEHRER DECORATES RUDEL

Domei

FUEHRER'S HEADQUARTERS, January 2.—With a decree issued on December 29, 1944, Fuehrer Adolf Hitler created the Order of the Golden Oak Leaves with Swords and Diamonds to the Knights Cross of the Iron Cross as the highest German war distinction.

Lieutenant Colonel Hans Rudel, Commander of the battleplane squadron "Immelmann," received this highest German distinction from the hands of the Fuehrer on January 1, 1945, as the first German soldier of the Wehrmacht. Simultaneously the Fuehrer promoted Lieutenant Colonel Rudel to the rank of colonel in recognition of his incessantly proved heroism and his unparalleled flying success.

Credited with a total of 903 enemy tanks destroyed and with more than 2,400 sorties against the enemy, Colonel Rudel today is the most successful champion of all air forces in the word. Single-handed he has eliminated about four Soviet tank corps thus giving immense relief to the hard fighting German ground troops on the Eastern Front.

Indian Army Divisions

Domei

LISBON, January 1.—Eleven divisions of the Indian army are going to be assigned to field service on the foremost lines, according to a Vernacular Statesman, says a Calcutta dispatch.

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TOKYO, THURSDAY, JANUARY 4, 1945

The Reasons for Inevitable Victory

New Year's Day was naturally the occasion for numerous messages by the leading statesmen of the various countries of the world. In the nature of things, most of these messages were merely formal and perfunctory, but there were two which stood out above the rest for their timely significance. One was the message of Prime Minister Kuniaki Koiso delivered in the broadcast among the leaders of the East Asiatic nations, and the other was the message of Fuehrer Hitler to the German people. Although these two messages dealt with entirely different subjects, they were similar in the one respect that they both gave an incontrovertible reason why eventual victory in the present war must lie with Japan, Germany, and their allies.

Prime Minister Koiso, after reviewing the accomplishments of the various countries of Greater East Asia, concluded with the words: "With Greater East Asia thus united as one body and devoting its all to the prosecution of this war for the maintenance of its integrity in concert with the victorious march of the German ally and with the 100,000,000 Japanese people behind the guns, thus carrying on their efforts to replenish the nation's fighting potentiality parallel with the fierce struggles of the fighting services at the front, our strategic structure of unfailing victory will never be broken."

This conclusion of Prime Minister Koiso is based on the solid fact that the nations of Greater East Asia are actually united in their great task of waging the war. They are united because they realize clearly what they are fighting for, because they realize why they must fight. They realize that they are fighting in self-defense, that their very existence depends upon victory. They realize also that beyond mere self-defensive resistance, they are fighting for the full unfolding of their rightful independent destiny which can be obtained only by delivering themselves from the tyranny of American and British intervention. They realize finally that they are not fighting merely for their own existence and their own destiny but also for the construction of a new and better world. Fighting for such aims, they must not and therefore they cannot fail.

In a similar manner Fuehrer Hitler, after reviewing the miraculous manner in which the German people had successfully withstood the unprecedented trials of the past year, pointed out the reasons for the invincible fortitude of the German nation. These are that the German people fully know what the war aims of the enemy are and what their own aims are in contrast. The victory of the enemy would mean the destruction of Germany, and hence the German people cannot and therefore will not ever capitulate.

That it is not merely for the defense and existence of the German nation that the German people are fighting. They understand that the ideas of democratic plutocracy advocated by the enemy are utterly incapable of coping with the conditions of the present and future world. Only the ideas of national socialism can save Europe from chaos. As the Fuehrer clearly stated: "The bourgeois order of a state is no longer able to weather the storms of today and of the coming times. State after state which fails to find the way to a truly social reorganization will fall into chaos. The liberal world is a thing of the past. It is simply childish if the enemy believes that the storm can be weathered by purely parliamentary measures. In every country we see that the attempt at a rebirth of democracy is proving an absolute failure. One thing is proved beyond doubt: The European Continent, which is the most densely populated part of the world, will either live in an order that gives due regard to the individual capacities, guaranteeing highest achievements and preventing all egoistic extravagances, or the states as we know them in Central and Western Europe will prove incapable of living, in other words they are doomed to death."

It is to save not only Germany but all Europe from this death that the German people are determined to perpetuate the principles of the national socialist state. Fighting for such an aim, realizing the moral value of such a conception, the German people have found the strength to carry on their struggle even in the darkest hours with strongest faith and unshakable confidence.

Thus, because Japan, Germany, and their allies bear a mission essential for the salvation of the world, they cannot fail. The knowledge of the moral imperative of their victory gives these countries the unfathomable strength to prevail. Such is the common conclusion of Prime Minister Koiso and Fuehrer Hitler.

Greece and the Atlantic Charter

In their reply to the recent truce proposal made by Lieutenant General Ronald Scobie, commander of the British occupation forces in Greece, the ELAS forces have stressed that "the Greek people are the masters of their own country" and that they should shape their own destiny. The opposition of the Greek masses against the British is based on this national demand. They demand the establishment of a government "in whom we have mutual confidence" and the holding of "free elections in which the Greek people might make manifest what form of government they wish." These demands are but natural demands made by a people desiring the re-establishment of their country's sovereignty and it goes without saying that the British policy of suppressing these demands by armed force is immoral and unjust.

This is all the more so in view of the fact that the Atlantic Charter states that the United States and Britain will respect the right of the various peoples to select their own form of government. Recently the American President has practically buried the Charter for good. But it cannot be regarded as a matter of mere form as to whether or not the Charter was officially signed or not. As long as the Charter was a document spread to the world as a result of a complete agreement reached on world policy between the President of the United States and the Prime Minister of Britain, the two Governments must naturally stand behind it if they possess any moral sense at all. They should not be able to ignore the articles of the Charter and effect policies which stand in contradiction. But Churchill's policy in Greece is directly opposed to the articles of the Atlantic Charter. Despite the fact that the Greeks are demanding a government of their own selection, Churchill is practicing armed suppression against them.

The Anglo-Americans call the zones they have occupied the "liberated" zones. But what does their "liberation" mean? There can be no liberation where there has been no recovery of sovereignty. Actually, in contrast to the Anglo-American propaganda, German protection has been replaced by the oppression of the anti-Axis forces and the yoke of Anglo-American plutocracy. In Greece, the British have driven into the capital and have battered the Greeks with bomb and shell. Can that be a situation compatible with a "liberated" country? And can the actions of the British Government against the Greeks be the actions of a country fighting for the "liberation" of others?

The Anglo-American actions in Europe today show that the Atlantic Charter is a dead letter. It is clear now that it was used merely as a tool by Roosevelt and Churchill to gain their evil ends. Furthermore, Roosevelt's recent statement practically repudiating the Charter indicates that from the very beginning the Anglo-American leaders had no intention of carrying out what they propandized. The lofty aims they propagandized were but a means to draw the small vacillating nations to their side, and once they invaded Europe their pretenses were thrown aside.

The present situation proves that there can be no true liberation in Europe under the Anglo-American system. Only the establishment of the New Order for which Germany is fighting will enable the peoples of Europe to be the masters of their own destiny. Only thus will true liberation be brought to Europe.

THROUGH THE PROVINCE OF YAMATO

A Foreigner's Impression of the Cradle of Japan's Culture

By ABDULLAH KAMIL

II

Close by were many other temples, each with some historical significance. By the streams of people going in and out I could imagine the importance attached to them by the Japanese. These old wooden structures are a link between the present generation of modern Japan and Japan of the mediaeval period and therefore an inspiration to carry on the task of guarding their nation, which has never been invaded in its past history.

The tame deer of Nara are well-known throughout the world, passing a life unmolested, and undisturbed by the inhabitants. One can see these sacred deer roaming about the parks, and streets nearby to return to their barn at four o'clock sharp every evening at the sound of a bugle.

The Horyuji Temple

The Horyuji Temple, situated a few miles away from Nara City, is associated with the introduction and Japanization of Buddhism in this country. As Buddhism was brought via China, the buildings comprising the Horyuji are of Chinese pattern and architecture. As is to be noted, it has been the tradition in Japan to borrow or take over foreign civilization and then slowly assimilating it with native culture. Many images and paintings of artistic value are kept in this temple. The miniature sculptures of Buddha and other holy figures are most impressive and true to life, while the mural drawings are durable and of first class quality. If we take into consideration that these master pieces of art were created ages ago, we can imagine the magnificance and glory of the Japanese art of painting, drawing and architecture at those periods, when this country was still secluded from the rest of the world. The inherent qualities of Japan to produce such things of artistic value, as her silk, lacquer, porcelain and other works therefore dated back to more than a thousand years ago.

Kyoto

Kyoto, the capital of Japan before it was moved to Tokyo, is another city which can narrate stories of Old Japan through its temples, shrines, palaces and mansions now kept intact and held as national treasures. The Heian Jingu, the Honganji Temple, the Golden and Silver Pavillions, the Momoyama Mausoleum and other historical sites are worthy to be visited by foreigners for a more comprehensive study of this country.

The Honganji Temple of the Shinran Sect of Buddhism is one of the best structures left from the Middle Ages. Built during the seventeenth century, after the original temple was razed to the ground by fire, this wooden structure is adorned with beautiful carvings and paintings of a very fine quality and workmanship. My mind unconsciously flew back to the land of my own ancestors, Minangkabau on the West Coast of Sumatra, where the art of carving also had reached its zenith of glory in the Middle Ages. A curious way of painting is to be found at the Honganji: the golden painting was not applied at the final instance, but at the beginning, and on this coating only were the murals drawn, thus causing a mellow but pleasant sight and feeling to the eye. The longer one looks at the paintings, the more one is able to appreciate their beauty.

Adjoining this temple are the mansion and attached houses of the famous figure in Japanese history, Toyotomi Hideyoshi. Here again the paintings are first class and the structures unique. The creaking floors to keep away sneakers and plotters was a novelty as modern as the alarm-bell attached to houses of the present day. It reminds one of Hideyoshi's craftiness, which was one of the reasons of his successes. His pavillion was complete with safety devices to help him escape in case of any menace or siege. Believe it or not, it is said that he even had a small boat (which still can be seen) complete with his apparel near his bath-room. Apparently strategy was the motto of the great but small (in stature) Hideoshi.

Momoyama Mausoleum

All admirers of Modern Japan should not fail to pay their respects to the Momoyama Mausoleum, the tomb of Emperor Meiji. Momoyama means Peach Hill and is said to be one of the favorite spots of Emperor Meiji. Close by is the Nogi Shrine, dedicated to the hero of the Russo-Japan War, who preferred to follow his master Meiji Tenno to everlasting peace in 1912 by disemboweling himself at the time the funeral procession of the great Emperor left the Imperial Palace.

The Nogi Shrine is simple and small, but to visit a shrine is not to admire the structure or decoration but to be inspired by the spirits that dwell there. No word is ample enough to eulogize the supreme patriotism of General Nogi. He was the general, the soldier and the man. An English newspaper reporter said that he was the friend of journalists, supplying them with a large stock of provision, including whisky, during the battles of the Russo-Japan War. But towering above all those qualities, he was the father, who knowingly and deliberately sent his son to the battle of death at Hill 203, knowing full well that there one of his sons had already fallen, and that this son also would meet his death at that hill. Mentally reviewing that incident, while standing in front of the altar of the shrine, I could only hope that this supreme patriotism and effacement for the sake of the country and nation should be the guiding spirit of my country Indonesia, if she wishes to acquire an honorable place in the family of nations.

While visiting all these holy places, so sacred to the heart of the Japanese, I found time and opportunity to inspect an aircraft factory. Passing through the various working halls I could visualize the 100 million Japanese cooperating in the war-effort: for here thousands of men and women, boys and girls were working side by side in the production of the most important weapon in the present war, —airplanes. Small and minor jobs were done by the delicate hands of girls still under age, the bigger and heavier work being handled by youths still in their teens, while male adults are only required in skilled labor. Wearing headbands with the red design of the Rising Sun around their foreheads, these youths are the symbol of Fighting Japan: everybody a soldier and everywhere an arsenal.

(End)

BEHIND AMERICA'S CHALLENGE

Did Roosevelt Throw Nation Into War to Hide His Maladministration in Home Politics?

By TADASHI YOSHIMURA
Professor at Waseda University

Endowed with extensive territory and rich resources, America is what may be called a "satisfied" Power. Besides, she has traditionally held stoutly to the Monroe Doctrine, making it the keynote of her foreign policy to resist interference by European countries in American affairs while abstaining herself from intervention in European affairs.

Why, then, did she adopt a challenging attitude all along in regard to international relations? It is true that America possessed some rights and interests in China, nor can it be denied that she had profitable markets there for her trade and capital investments, but it was in Japan, not in China, that America enjoyed the most profitable markets for her East Asiatic trade and investments. How was it, then, that, at the hazard of these big interests, she dared to put pressure after pressure on Japan until the latter was left no other alternative than to take up arms against her?

In his fireside chats and in his messages to Congress, President Roosevelt often stressed the point that America must fight for the defense of democracy, but, as the initiator of the New Deal, he ought to have known better than anybody else that democracy was no longer tenable. Where, then, was the necessity of fighting for the defense of this antiquated and useless democracy—and this for democracy outside America far away across the sea too?

Roosevelt's Insincerity

Giving America's reason for fighting Japan, President Roosevelt pointed out in his message to Congress that his country had been attacked by the Japanese naval and air forces suddenly and intentionally, but who was it that had been aiding the Chiang Kai-shek regime against Japan, that had put an embargo on exports to Japan, that had abrogated the Treaty of Commerce with Japan, that had freezed Japanese assets and that had formed the encirclement with Britain and the Netherlands against Japan? It is hardly necessary to say that Japan's attack on Pearl Harbor was the result of America's challenge, not by any means its cause.

Anyway, it is an indisputable fact that America assumed a challenging attitude from the very start. She is, indeed, responsible for the starting of the present war. Why she went out of her way to provoke it is beyond comprehension. The only possible explanation is that Roosevelt wanted to hide his maladministration in home politics by diverting the attention of the American public elsewhere.

When, in March, 1933, Roosevelt was installed in the White House for the first time, the business depression which had began in 1929 was at its worst. The storm of financial panic was then raging in all its fury throughout the country, throwing the American people into extreme uneasiness. It was for the purpose of remedying this situation that Roosevelt conceived and carried out his New Deal.

Politically, the New Deal aimed at a modification of democracy. It meant economic control by the Government. The series of laws including the NRA and the AAA, enacted under the New Deal, invested the President with extensive powers of control over finance, industry, agriculture and unemployment. In other words, under the New Deal, the President was given wide dictatorial powers in regard to the control and supervision of finance, banking, commerce, industry and agriculture.

Priming the Pump Policy

Economically speaking, the New Deal signified the policy of restoring business prosperity by boosting the purchasing power of the masses through measures intended for the improvement of labor conditions, for the relief of the unemployed and for subsidizing agriculture. Through the instrumentality of the NRA, the working hours were reduced and more laborers were given work while the minimum wages were fixed to prevent a decline in the incomes of laborers. Then, by governmental disbursements through the FER direct relief was provided for the unemployed and large-scale public work projects were at the same time launched by the Government to end unemployment. The Government also granted subsidies to farmers and forced up the prices of farm products. In short, the New Deal was designed to recover business activity by enhancing the purchasing power of the working classes.

The result of this policy was, however, disappointing. While failing to revive business to any marked extent, it brought increasing powers to the labor unions. In consequence, it brought down upon the Government the opposition of capitalists, the heavy industry capitalists especially.

The number of the unemployed stood at some 14,000,000 in March, 1933, and although this figure did not go up under the Rooseveltian regime, it showed no big fall, the number of the unemployed still ranging from eight or nine million to ten million. The fact that some 10,000,000 or 20 per cent of the total labor population of 50,000,000 remnant jobless bears eloquent testimony to the very poor result of the New Deal policy.

Strikes Mount

The labor movement in America led chiefly by the A.F.L. used to be lukewarm and inert, but as the purchasing power of the working classes increased under the New Deal dispensation, it gradually got on its feet. Especially, after the formation of the C.I.O. under the leadership of John Lewis, labor disputes became very frequent. Whereas, the number of labor disputes in 1932, that is, the year previous to the initiation of the New Deal, was 808 with the strikers totalling 244,144, it jumped in the following year to 1,562 involving 812,134 workers. There has since been an yearly increase as is shown in the following table:

Years	Number of cases	Number of participants
1932	808	244,144
1933	1,562	812,134
1934	1,856	1,353,608
1935	2,014	1,117,213
1936	2,172	788,648
1937	4,533	1,860,000

From March to June of 1934 there was a big strike involving over 100,000 Pacific longshoremen in the district around San Francisco. In August of the same year, the American Textile Workers' Federation decided on a big strike involving 325,000 members, and this decision was carried out in September. The ensuing trouble assumed such serious dimensions that martial law had to be proclaimed, and the President was finally moved to advise the suspension of the strike. His plan of mediation was accepted and the strike ended in victory for the strikers. In November, 1936, the C.I.O. called a strike of the employes of the General Motors at Atlanta with the object of gaining the right of collective bargaining. In this strike, 135,000 laborers resorted to the sit-down tactics, and as the trouble assumed riotous shape, the troops were called out. The General Motors finally agreed to recognize the right of collective bargaining of the laborers belonging to the C.I.O. Still another victory crowned labor in the dispute which the C.I.O. started with the U.S. Steel Company of the Morgan interests, the biggest steel works in America. The C.I.O. succeeded in making the Carnegie Illinois Steel Company affiliated with the above-mentioned Corporation recognize the Organizing Committee of Steel Workers belonging to the C.I.O. as the organ for collective bargaining. Moreover, it got the Company to consent to a 40-hour-week and a minimum wage of $15 a day. Encouraged by this success, this labor organization started similar strikes at other smaller steel works, which caused even bloodshed in some cases.

Capitalists Become Enraged

In such circumstances, the New Deal estranged the feelings of capitalists, who announced it as a violation of the democratic principles on which the American Constitution is based. They even charged Roosevelt of being Communistic.

On his assumption of the Presidency for the second term in 1937, therefore, Roosevelt made terms with the capitalists by purging his "brain trust" of the reformist elements. He discarded his former attitude of modifying capitalism and emerged this time as the guardian of American capitalism.

This change of front of his part yielded no better result, however. The business depression persisted and the unemployment figure refused to fall below the eight or nine million mark. Thus, Roosevelt was no more successful in his second term than in his first term. Finding himself in this plight, he had to seek some way to retrieve his waning popularity with the public. The course he chose both for covering up the failure of his home policy and for safeguarding American capitalism was to push a strong foreign policy, to pile up armaments and to provoke war. During the period from 1937 to 1940, the Rooseveltian administration gradually gravitated from its original aims for the reorganization of capitalism, the fair distribution of the national income and the elimination of poverty to jingoism, armament expansion and aggression. By diverting public attention from domestic to foreign affairs in this way, Roosevelt believed that he could cover up his administrative blunders so as to prolong his political life.

The outbreak of the hostilities in Europe in September, 1939, whetted America's economic activity considerably, causing the American shares to soar. America could, if she would, easily gain enormous profits by exporting ordinary commodities to Britain and France. Roosevelt's efforts were, however, directed toward facilitating the exports of munitions to these countries through the revision of the Neutrality Act.

His mad policy of armament expansion provoked strong opposition from the so-called isolationists who were dead set against America's entanglement in the European hostilities and her intervention in East Asiatic affairs. In journalistic circles, the Chicago Tribune led the opposition and among the distinguished opponents were Colonel Lindbergh, Hugh Johnson, Dr. Charles Beard, Burton Wheeler, a Democratic leader, Senator Bennett Clark, Alfred Landon and William Castle, an ex-Ambassador to Japan.

The large majority of the American people were also against America's participation in war, as can easily be gathered from the platform published before the Presidential election of 1940 by the Democratic Party of which Roosevelt was the Presidential candidate. In this platform, the Party recorded its opposition to America's involvement in war, saying that the American nation was determined to see to it that the hostilities raging in Europe, Asia and Africa did not spread to the United States

That the Democratic Party took this stand then shows that, in view of the apprehension generally entertained among the American people that Roosevelt's re-election for a third term might lead to America's entry into the war, it was obliged to commit itself to non-participation in order to win the election. It thus bears witness to the popular aversion to the idea of embroilment.

Once he got elected, however, Roosevelt made no scruples about acting in betrayal of his open pledge to his nation in boosting America's armed aid for Britain, in intensifying her pressure on Japan and otherwise in giving all sorts of provocation to the Axis Powers. Thus, Roosevelt's plan to blind his nation to his maladministration and the bankruptcy of his policy took the ambitious form of dominating the world, with the result that the whole world became involved in the terrible conflagration.

Fruits of Wisdom

Here below is not the land of happiness; it is only the land of toil; and every joy which comes to us is only to strengthen us for some greater labor that is to succeed.—Fichte.

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While I am ready to adopt any well-grounded opinion, my inmost heart revolts against receiving the judgments of others respecting persons, and whenever I have done so, I have bitterly repented of it.—Niebuhr.

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An honest man nearly always thinks justly.—Rousseau.

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Justice is the bread of the nation; it is always hungry for it.—Chateaubriand.

PLAN FOR INCREASED FOOD-STUFFS

Sending of Settlers to Manchoukuo Suggested

Editor's Note: Dr. Conichi Odaira, Vice-President of the Central Agricultural Association, is the writer of the article below entitled "The Problem of Food in Japan and Manchoukuo" which was contributed to the November issue of the magazine "Kaitaku," the digest of which is given in the following translation.

With the progress of the current war, indispensable farm products of wartime importance such as food, fibers and unpressed oil, etc. have come to be demanded in an increasing number and quantities. Now, it is absolutely necessary to increase the amount of these products as demanded by the State, for it is by such increased production that the nation can win the war. Thus, it is incumbent for us to attain this object of increased production by overcoming all difficulties. In attaining this object, we should not only consider the productivity of Japan Proper and her overseas possessions, but also that of our continental neighbor, Manchoukuo. This is particularly so in respect to the problem of food production.

Thus, great assistance has been given to food production in Manchoukuo particularly in respect to the development of arable land and fields as well as in the utilization of manpower resources, while Manchoukuo has been exporting food to Japan as much as she can. This reciprocal condition must be continued to the future.

Prior to the China Affair, considerable quantities of rice and wheat were sent to Manchoukuo by Japan. When I went to Manchoukuo at that time as an economic adviser to the Kwantung Army I was not ready to believe in the necessity of any positive encouragement for the formation of rice paddies and the cultivation of paddy rice as the conditions in Manchoukuo at that time were vastly different from its present conditions.

Rice Production Increased

Since that time, the area of rice was expanded with an amazing rapidity and she is now self-sufficient in the supply of this important cereal. This success is due, of course, to the existence of a considerable amount of rice paddies in that country which, in turn, has been possible because of the great and tireless endeavors of the Japanese and Chosen farmers and also because of the good guidance given by the Manchoukuo Government officials concerned. The very fact that Manchoukuo enjoys self-sufficiency in the supply of rice is a great source of strength to that country under the prevailing wartime strain. The output of rice today is many times that of the time when Manchoukuo was founded. Foodstuffs other than rice are also produced abundantly and a considerable amount of them has been exported to Japan, for which we should be grateful.

The fact is that we should depend on Manchoukuo for the supply of food in an increasing degree. To establish a policy of self-sufficiency in the supply of food for the Japan-Manchoukuo bloc is necessary and to attain this status much effort will be needed. I shall, therefore, dwell on the various measures that may be adoptd in connection with this general policy.

Primary consideration should be given to the relations between the problem of setting up a self-sufficient food structures for Japan and Manchoukuo and the problem of sending Japanese settlers to Manchoukuo.

Some may have adverse views regarding the plan of sending our farmers to Manchoukuo under the strained wartime conditions. But they are mistaken in their opinion. A single Japanese farmer in Manchoukuo can cultivate five or six chobu of land. Moreover, in fertile northern Manchoukuo, farmers can secure a considerable yield for several years without the aid of any fertilizer at all. In Japan, there is no such fertile territory on any extensive scale. Exception may be found in the case of river beds but their area is highly negligible. The greater the number of farmers who are sent to Manchoukuo, the greater will be the amount of food increased for both Japan and Manchoukuo. But, it is absolutely necessary that all preparations should be made beforehand by the time our colonial farmers arrive in Manchoukuo so that they can at once start work the moment they arrive at their destination. The ideal time for the emigration of Japanese farmers to Manchoukuo will be winter after they have finished their crop gathering in their home country in the autumn.

Thus, it is necessary that houses for Japanese farmers should be built and the land should be previously cultivated by the Manchoukuoan farmers before their arrival. If this previous arrangement is carried out, there will ensue no production decrease as a result of the emigration of Japanese farmers to Manchoukuo, for such a decrease can be prevented by these pre-arrangements.

(To Be Continued)

News and Views

'I Urge'

By K. OYA

On the Western Front, the Anglo-American-French allied forces are currently tasting a surprise defeat of an unprecedented scale. How the situation will develop defies imagination or speculation.

If you picture the reverse of the final battle scene of World War I in which the German forces are the allies and the allies the Germans, we can call you imaginative but we cannot call you very wrong in your hunch of what is going to happen on the Western Front in the days or weeks to come. For symptoms have developed already. The confusion among the American and the British troops is one. It is a sort of confusion that has features of more-than-comedy, or even tragedy better described as a "gaping mouth" sort than any kind of strong adjective.

When unexpected misfortune suddenly stares a man in the face, it is human nature to become tender over himself and indulge in many kinds of self-consoling thoughts, the limit being merely the limit of his intelligence or the lack of it. We can see the case in point in America's home scene. "Ammunition shortage" was the first explanation eagerly offered to account for it, or rather to sentimentally excuse General Eisenhower's big blunder. The blame is not supposed to be in Eisenhower's strategy but the arms and ammunitions that he lacked. The next excuse was, "Germany gained time." And this as though the "sucker" were not Eisenhower, the man who let Germany gain time on him, but Germany who dared to do it!

At the press interview on December 22, President Roosevelt came out with this statement: "We can best help the Christmas season of our fighting men if we carry on our respective tasks, doing those things which will contribute to winning the war at the earliest possible moment. Therefore, I urge that each of us resolve to keep on the job and maintain the steady output of supplies needed by our men on the fighting fronts."

To a country such as America whose only weapon is material quantity, such an admission of material shortage as that made by its chief executive has an implication that is very sad. David Lawrence, influential American political commentator said that it would take at least six months for America to make up the present shortage in arms and ammunitions.

Julius Krug, Director of the United States War Production Board, on December 27 gave the American press a serious-sounding warning that ammunition production must be carried on in the supposition that the European war would last indefinitely.

Varied comments and warnings of this character, however, amount to little more than so many mannerisms of self-consolation with willful concealment of half the truth. As Hanson Baldwin, American military commentator, rightly points out, the greatest cause of the current Anglo-American military failure lies in the complete miscalculation as to the termination of the European war. It was the totally unwarranted optimism over the war prospect in Europe that was the "mischief," the sort of optimism that made every American and British speculate on the war ending within last year or in the early spring at the latest.

And this optimism, if looked at a little deeper into the cause of it, is traceable to Roosevelt's election policy. Anxious to win his fourth term, Franklin Roosevelt cared little about anything except propaganda of the sort that would contribute to his election success. His announced program of shifting war industry back into peacetime industry was calculated to ease the mind of the American people on the war prospect so that they would re-elect him. He did it so successfully that it gave the public the perfect illusion that peace was "around the corner."

It was therefore Roosevelt's election campaign, his design to win a fourth term, that began America's ammunition problem and which resulted in the shortage of arms to General Eisenhower. The latter set in motion the military failure of the Anglo-American forces, bringing about a state of affairs which compelled Roosevelt to cry: "I urge that each of us resolve to keep on the job," a warning to all Americans against the prevailing mood of sabotage which he himself had encouraged.

It was Roosevelt who told the American people to go easy on their war work because peace was "around the corner;" it is now the frightened Roosevelt who is urging them to work harder, and it is his country and her allies who are going downhill as the inevitable consequence of such confusion.